

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A recombinant DNA encoding a chimeric recombinant protein, comprising

at least two first nucleotide fragments each encoding an epitope region of the HIV-1 virus group M or group O or of the HIV-2 virus,

at least a second nucleotide fragment encoding a linking region,

at least a third nucleotide fragment encoding an attaching region,

characterized in that each first nucleotide fragment encodes at least one immunodominant region of the gp120 glycoprotein of HIV-1, of the gp41 glycoprotein of HIV-1 group M, of the gp41 glycoprotein of HIV-1 group O or of the gp36 glycoprotein of HIV-2.

2. (Original) The DNA as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said first nucleotide fragment has as its sequence any one of the sequences SEQ ID No.°3, SEQ ID No.°5, SEQ ID No.°7, SEQ ID No.°9, SEQ ID No.°27, SEQ ID No.°29 or SEQ ID No.°31.

3. (Currently Amended) The recombinant DNA as claimed in ~~either one of~~ claimsclaim 1 and 2, characterized in that said second nucleotide fragment comprises at least one cleavage site.

4. (Currently Amended) The recombinant DNA as claimed in ~~any one of claimsclaim 1 to 3~~, characterized in that said second nucleotide fragment has as its sequence at least any one of the following sequences, taken alone or in combination, SEQ ID No.°11 SEQ ID

No.°13, SEQ ID No.°15, SEQ ID No.°17, SEQ ID No.°19, ou SEQ ID No.°20, SEQ ID No.°33, SEQ ID No.°35, SEQ ID No.°37, SEQ ID No.°39, SEQ ID No.°41, SEQ ID No.°43 SEQ ID No.°45, or SEQ ID No.°47

5. (Currently Amended) The recombinant DNA as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~claim 1 to 4, characterized in that said third nucleotide fragment encoding an attaching region is included in said second nucleotide fragment encoding a linking region.

6. (Currently Amended) The DNA as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~claim 1 to 5, characterized in that said third nucleotide fragment has as its sequence any one of the sequences SEQ ID No.°21, SEQ ID No.° 23, SEQ ID No.°25, SEQ ID No.°33, SEQ ID No.°35, SEQ ID No.°37 or SEQ ID No.°39.

7. (Currently Amended) A chimeric recombinant protein encoded by a recombinant DNA as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~claim 1 to 6, comprising

- at least two epitope regions of the HIV-1 virus group M or group O or the HIV-2 virus,
- at least one linking region,
- at least one attaching region.

8. (Original) The protein as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said linking region is a peptide comprising at least one glycine and/or at least one serine.

9. (Original) The protein as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said linking region has as its sequence any one of the sequences SEQ ID No.°12, SEQ ID No.°14, SEQ ID No.°16 or SEQ ID No.°18, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 or 48.

10. (Original) The protein as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said attaching region is a region rich in histidines and derivatives thereof, such as a region containing a density of histidines greater than or equal to 25%, and preferably greater than or equal to 33%.

11. (Original) The protein as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said attaching region is a peptide comprising at least one lysine.

12. (Original) The protein as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said attaching region has as its sequence SEQ ID No.°22, 24 , 26, 34, 36, 38 or 40.

13. (Currently Amended) An expression vector comprising a recombinant DNA as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~claim 1 to 6.

14. Canceled.